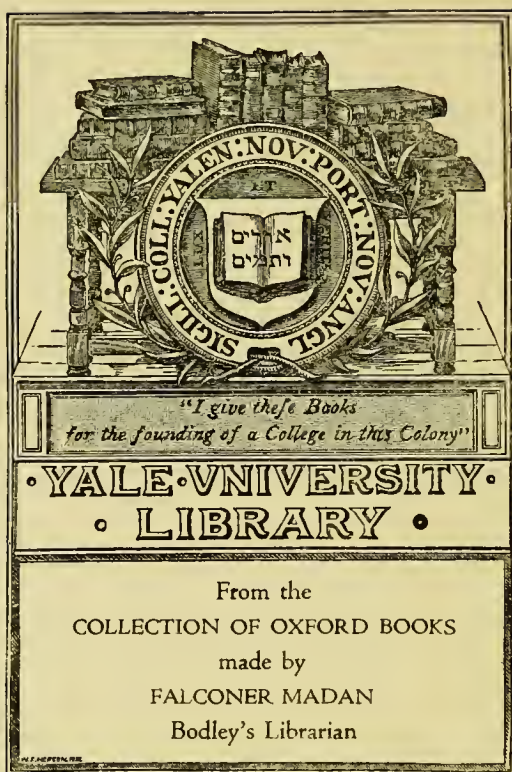


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BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM.

1875.



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Oxford Warneford Lunatic Asylum

BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM

(INSTITUTED 1813, OPENED 1826);

COMPILED BY THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

1875.



19th
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THE WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A MEETING of the GOVERNORS of the RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY on the 28th of April 1813 (principally promoted by the late DR. COOKE, President of Corpus), may be said to have been the genesis of the WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM; although the expediency of such an Institution in the vicinity of Oxford was propounded at a Meeting of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary in November 1812. That Board of Governors again met on the 3rd of December 1812, and appointed a Committee to enquire into the practicability “of erecting a Lunatic Asylum in the Vicinity of Oxford by voluntary Contributions, and to obtain every information that might appear useful to accomplish the object in view.” This Committee presented their Report to the above mentioned Meeting of the 28th of April 1813,—when definite measures were resolved upon, and, based upon which, the philanthropic intentions of the Radcliffe Infirmary Trustees culminated in a Scheme, the gradual execution of which will be developed in the sequel.

The measures above referred to were embodied in the following propositions which received the approbation of the Radcliffe Infirmary Governors :

1. That an Asylum for the reception and relief of Insane Patients be established in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

2. That

2. That the annual expense of the Establishment be defrayed by weekly payments from the Patients in proportion to their circumstances ; in the admission of whom it is proposed to give a preference, in cases of competition, to those who have not received Parochial relief.

3. That Benefactors to the Asylum of Thirty Guineas be Governors of the Asylum.

4. That the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary be Governors of the Asylum : but that the Expenses of the two Establishments be kept perfectly distinct.

Contributions. By means then, of Corporate, and Individual Contributions,^(a) a sum of nearly £20,000 was raised, the present ten acres of Land at Headington purchased, and the present ASYLUM in chief part erected, according to the Plans of MR. RICHARD INGLEMAN of Southwell. It was first opened, for the reception of Patients, on the 10th of July 1826 ;^(b)—the non-resident Medical superintendence being committed to DR. JAMES ADEY OGLE, Aldrich Professor, and the domestic care to MR. and MRS. MOORE. The Institution was at this period known as “THE OXFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM ;” and, whilst it offered

(a) See a List of the Contributors, down to 1827, in the REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS’ “Account of the origin, nature, and Objects of the Asylum” p. 29.

(b) The long interval between 1813 and 1826 is partly accounted for by the time occupied in negotiations with the Oxfordshire Magistrates to effect, under Mr. Wynne’s Act, 48 George 3 c. 96, an union of a County Asylum, for Paupers, with that founded by the Warneford Subscriptional Charities. These negotiations however, failed ; and the establishment of a County Asylum was delayed until the erection of that at Littlemore, which was opened in 1846 ; its institution having been mainly advocated and brought to completion by the RIGHT HONORABLE JOSEPH WARNER HENLEY M.P. and WILLIAM HENRY ASHHURST ESQUIRE, the then Chairman of the Quarter Sessions.

Objects of the
Charity. And
vide p. 5, para-
graph 1.

offered advantages and securities to Persons of the higher classes, it was intended that its charity should begin where the charity of the Law might be said to terminate, when considered in its provisions for the support and maintenance of the Insane ;—to begin, that is, to operate in respect of those Persons for whom the Law had provided no gratuitous assistance, and no means of obtaining any.

The special Objects of the Charity were to be those who, though poor, were not Paupers ; those who, though above poverty, were far from affluence ; and those who, though blessed with a sufficiency to meet the ordinary calls upon their resources, were unable to satisfy the pressing demands of a heavy calamity. And the Recipients of the Charity were not restricted to any Place or County.

Cost.

Adding the expense of boundary Walls, and other incidents, the cost of the Buildings ultimately exceeded £25,000.

Original Trust
Deed.

And here it may be stated that in March 1831 a Deed was executed, and enrolled in Chancery, which vested the Asylum property in Trustees (certain Heads of Houses and others), for the Charitable uses of the Institution.

Change of
Name of the
Asylum.

At a Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers on the 25th of November 1828, in order to mark the sense of the Meeting of the large sums of money at different times contributed by the RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES, it was resolved that the Asylum be called "THE RADCLIFFE ASYLUM." Also, at this date, it was resolved "that a resident Apothecary be appointed for the domestic management of

the

the Asylum ;” and MR. FREDERICK THOMAS WINTLE of the Radcliffe Infirmary was so appointed.

In “Rules and Orders” of the date of 1836, the special Objects of the care and charity of the Asylum are stated to be “Persons belonging to the middle and upper classes of Society who may be too poor to bear the necessary expenses of these burthensome afflictions.”

Dr. Warneford's
extra Gifts of

DOWN to this period, the REVEREND DR. SAMUEL WILSON WARNEFORD, Rector of Bourton on the Hill, had contributed largely, in common with the Radcliffe Trustees, the University, the Colleges, the City of Oxford, and Gentlemen of the County,—and by Deed of 28 December 1838 DR. WARNEFORD transferred to LORD REDESDALE and the REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS

£2,000,

£2,000 (part of a Mortgage Security of £8,000), In trust to pay the Interest to the INFIRMARY for diseases of the

£4,000,

EYE in Cork Street, London ;—and £4,000 In trust to pay the Interest for the use and support of the Warneford Asylum in such manner as should be directed by the Committee of Management : and the Deed provided that in the event of the EYE INFIRMARY ceasing to exist during the life of Mr. Henry Alexander, the principal Surgeon, or that of any of his Sons, the Interest of the £2,000 should thenceforth be paid for the use and support of the Warneford Asylum : The Deed also provided that if the Asylum should become incorporated, the principal and interest of the above moneys might be transferred by the Trustees to the Corporation ; but the capital never to be

sold

sold, expended, or diminished. In 1872 the EYE INFIRMARY was closed, under the contingency contemplated by the Deed. The £2,000 had, in the interval, been vested in the Charity Commissioners, and they, on the 5th of August 1859, purchased with it £2,102 gs. 11d. Consols, in the name of "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," and on the 7th of May 1872 the Board made an Order for payment of the yearly dividends to the Asylum.

The £4,000 was in 1859 invested by the Asylum Trustees in the Consols, and it is still so invested.

And the 'Broad Estate.'

charged with the Chaplain's Salary.

Trusts of the 'Broad Estate.'

Passing from the above earlier period to the 25th of March 1843, DR. WARNEFORD then conveyed to THE REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS, LORD REDESDALE, and other Trustees, the Manors of Hellingly and Mawfee, and the Improprate Rectory of Hellingly, and a Freehold Estate there of 737 A. OR. 7 P. situate in Sussex, (known as 'the Broad Estate') for the benefit of the Asylum,—but subject to an Annuity of £20 towards the support of Hellingly Sunday Schools;—and to a direction to pay a Sum, not exceeding £50^(a) annually for the Salary of a Chaplain of the Asylum. And then the Trust of the Deed is to pay the clear rents and profits of the Estate to the Asylum, "to be applied for extending the benefit of the Asylum by enabling the Managers thereof to admit into the same a greater number of Patients or otherwise for the promotion of the charitable objects and purposes connected therewith *as the Trustees of these Presents for the*

time

(a) This has since been increased to £105.

“*time being* shall think fit, under regulations hereinafter contained, and subject to the proviso or condition also hereinafter contained for wholly or partially shifting the benefit of the said trust in the cases hereinafter mentioned:” such Regulations being that the Trustees shall hold an Annual Meeting in the month of June, at Moreton in Marsh, to audit the Accounts to the end of the preceding year, and appropriate the net Income for the benefit of the Asylum, according to the Trusts of the Deed, or as varied by Bye-laws: and power is given to the Annual Meeting to apply a part, not exceeding half of the Income, towards Repairs of Buildings, or the extension of Buildings of the Asylum: And the Proviso above referred to contains a power to lease any part of the Estate, and a power of Sale or Exchange.

Further change
of Name of the
Asylum.

At a Special and very large Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers on the 29th of April 1843 to consider the best means of transmitting to posterity their grateful acknowledgements to Dr. Warneford by some enduring record or memorial,—it was resolved to change the name of the Institution to “THE WARNEFORD ASYLUM.”

CHARTER of
Incorporation.

In April 1849, in order to facilitate testamentary benefactions, and avoid the impediment of the Mortmain Acts, DR. WARNEFORD solicited and obtained a ROYAL CHARTER, which constituted the Governors for the time being a BODY CORPORATE, by the name of “THE

WARNEFORD

Final Name or
Style of the
Asylum.

WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM," with perpetual Succession, and a Common Seal ; and with power to take, purchase, and hold, notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain, the then present Lands &c., and any other Lands not exceeding the net annual value of £5,000; and also with power to sell, exchange, mortgage, or lease any real or personal property ; and to make Bye-laws.

Dr. Warneford's
further Gifts.

By Indenture of the 26th September 1851 DR. WARNEFORD conveyed to Lord Redesdale and other Trustees, upon trust for the benefit of the Asylum, the following Properties :—commonly known as "The Settled Estate."

Properties in
Sussex, Surrey,
Kent, London,
Camberwell, &
Southwark.

A Freehold Farm in Jevington, Willingdon, Folkington, and Pevensey in Sussex.

Freehold Lands at Mitcham, Surrey.

A Freehold and Copyhold Farm at Limpsfield, Surrey, and Westerham, Kent.

Three Freehold Houses in Holborn, London.

Seven Freehold Houses in Saint John Street, Smithfield, London.

A Freehold House in Bateman's Row, Shoreditch, London.

Two Freehold Houses in Denmark Place, Camberwell, Surrey.

And a Leasehold House No. 52 Union Street, St. Saviour's, Southwark.

The total Rent of these Properties in 1851 was £916.

On

Supplemental
CHARTER.

On the 8th of September 1854 a Supplemental ROYAL CHARTER was granted. This enabled the Governors to constitute (as they have done), all Life Subscribers of £20 and upwards (instead of £42 and upwards), and all yearly Subscribers of £1 and upwards (instead of £2 2s. and upwards), GOVERNORS of the Institution; and the following to be Official, or ex-Officio GOVERNORS :

GOVERNORS
et Domus, et ex
Officio.

The Trustees for the time being of the Warneford Trust Estates settled in favour of the Institution.

The Vice Chancellor of Oxford.

The Mayor of Oxford.

The Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of the County of Oxford.

The Dean and Canons of Christ Church.

The President and Bursars of Corpus Christi College.

The Warden and Bursars of Merton College.

The Warden and Bursars of New College.

The President and Bursars of Magdalen College.

The President and Bursars of Trinity College.

The Rector of Bourton on the Hill, and

The Vicar of Yarnton.

And, by a Bye-law, were added

The Warden and Bursars of All Souls' College.

Bye-laws.

Power is given, by both the Charters, to make and revoke Bye-laws generally, for regulating the management and affairs of the Asylum.

Dr. Warneford's
munificence.

THE REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS (who for more than forty years was devoted to the cause of charity in this department of human affliction), enjoyed the unreserved confidence of DR. WARNEFORD, and was the principal Almoner of his munificence. Ranging over a period of forty two years, DR. WARNEFORD'S donations to the Asylum exceeded the value of £70,000. Besides the objects specified above, some of the money went towards building the Asylum; some towards the completion of the north Wing; some for encircling the ten acres with a twelve feet stone Wall; some for building detached Apartments for refractory Patients; some for building the Chapel; and some for the payment of the two Charters.

DR. WARNEFORD died on the 11th of January 1855.

Fund in aid.

In the year 1828 the REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS propounded a Scheme of Subscriptions to defray the cost of making the Asylum "extensively available for the relief and cure of the poor, curable Lunatics of Oxfordshire (especially in cases of recent insanity)." And the public appeal^(a) made by Mr. Vaughan Thomas "to all who are connected with poor Lunatics, either by domestic or Parochial relations, to do their best to expedite their restoration to reason, by placing them under a system of curative treatment, as soon as possible after their mental diseases

(a) See the *Oxford Journal* of 14 June 1828.

diseases have been clearly developed,”—was very handsomely responded to by Ladies and Gentlemen, and a Fund ultimately raised of nearly £6,000 (duly invested in the three per cents),—a fundamental part of the Scheme being that “the principal money should always remain untouched, a sort of sacred deposit at the Asylum, yielding the means of admitting and maintaining a few poor Curables of the County, either gratuitously, or at reduced prices, according to the circumstances of the Patient, and the extent of the provision.”

This ‘Fund in aid’ then, was originally intended for Oxfordshire poor Patients alone, but, as the Fund expanded, the area of the Recipients was enlarged, and became co-ordinate with the general scope of the Institution.

There will be found, in each year’s Report of the Committee of Management, a Summary of the Investments, and of the Receipts and Disbursements in respect of this ‘Fund in aid.’

The Committee of Management have also accumulated a Fund, which is invested in the Consols,—the amount of Stock being £13,000.

Progressive
work of the
Institution.

In an Appendix to each of the Reports will be found tabulated Statistics as to the progressive work of the Institution.

For an Account also, of the due receipt and appropriation of the various Funds, the Reader is referred to the Annual Report of the Committee of Management.

The

The Charters, Title Deeds, Muniments, and Common Seal are all in safe keeping in the Committee Room at the Asylum ; neatly characterised and classified, and in lettered boxes, deposited in a Milner Safe, the key of which is kept by the resident Medical Superintendent.

The COMMITTEE meet at the SAVINGS' BANK, Oxford,
on every Tuesday at One o'Clock.

RECAPITULATION
OF THE BENEFICIARY PROPERTIES.

The Buildings of the Asylum, and its Site and Grounds, altogether Ten Acres.

DR. WARNEFORD'S Gifts of

£2,102 9s. 11d. Consols

£4,139 14s. 4d. Consols

The 'Broad Estate,' Sussex.

The 'Settled Estate,' consisting of
Properties in Sussex, Surrey, Kent,
London, Camberwell, and Southwark.

The FUND IN AID of Poor Patients,
collected by THE REVEREND VAUGHAN
THOMAS,—amounting to £5,880 18s. 11d.
three per cents reduced - -

Funds accumulated by the Committee
of Management, amounting to £13,000
three per cent Consols - - -

Goring's and Leader's Legacies,
£,237 6s. 4d. Consols -



☞ The total value cannot be accurately computed.

£

At

At the date of this compilation, the Committee of Management have two cherished objects in view: (1), the purchase of additional Land for the Asylum Grounds,—which are at present too limited;—and (2), an increase of the Buildings of the Asylum,—so as to extend its benefits to a larger (perhaps double the present) complement of Patients. And it is hoped and believed that, ere long, both these objects will be realized. In the meantime, a large addition to the available Capital moneys is needed. The supply of that addition,—the Committee venture to think,—might satisfactorily be made by the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County^(a) and University of Oxford whose Predecessors, to their honour, aided the Institution in its infancy, principally by substantial Donations, and partly by Gifts qualifying them either as Life Governors, or Governors by Annual Subscription: and the Committee desire earnestly to appeal to the present Generation of Land Owners and others to add their Names, under one of these categories, to the Roll of Benefactors of this benevolent and abiding Institution.

There are no Funds in the hands of the Warneford Trustees which could be appropriated towards the
extension

(a) “As to Country Gentlemen, their benevolent feelings must be deeply concerned in the means provided by Dr. Warneford, and under the dispensation of his Corporation, for the relief, it may be, of their own Tenants, when visited in themselves, Wives, or Families, by the affliction of Insanity, and who, though above (it may be far above), the condition of chargeable Poor, still labour under the want of help, medical, moral, and tutelary, suitable to their place in Society, but which is found to be too costly in Licensed Houses to be borne by incomes straitened or crippled by the visitation of Lunacy in their Family.” [THE REVEREND VAUGHAN THOMAS’ LETTER TO THE MAGISTRATES OF THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, 1857, p. 33].


extension of the Buildings of the Asylum, excepting a moiety of the Income of the 'Broad Estate,' as mentioned *supra* in the statement of the Trusts of that Estate. But, in the Report of the Committee of Management for 1850, it is written that £1,000 was to be forthwith invested in Consols for the basis of a Building fund; and it is further said in that Report that the Committee proposed that, as soon as that fund should have attained an amount large enough to warrant such an undertaking, the present Buildings should be enlarged. And it appears by the Report of 1853 that new works had then been executed at a cost of £1,374 14s. 6d. Subsequently to this date a Building Fund has been continuously reserved, but it is inadequate to the purposes in view.

The COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT at the present time (1875), consists of

The Earl of Abingdon,
 The Reverend S. W. Wayte, President of Trinity
 College, *Chairman*,
 John M. Davenport Esquire, *Vice Chairman*,
 The Reverend the Vice Chancellor, (Dr. Sewell,
 Warden of New College),
 Archdeacon Clerke D.D.
 William Ward Esquire,
 The Reverend Canon Bright D.D.
 J. E. Henderson Esquire, Magdalen College,

Herbert

Herbert Parsons Esquire,
Frederick Symonds Esquire, and
Alfred Robinson Esquire, New College.

 The TREASURERS are MESSRS. PARSONS,
THOMSON & CO. OLD BANK, OXFORD.

OXFORD

JUNE 1875.

Accession no.

Warneford Asylum
Author Committee of
Management.

Brief history.

Call no.

RC 450

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